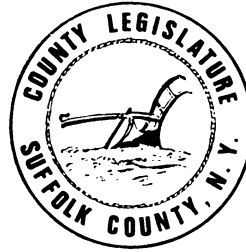


NEWS FROM Legislator

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For Immediate Release

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Protect Your Children: Keep Vaccinations Up-to-Date

(HUNTINGTON STATION, NY.... April 18, 2016) – In conjunction with this month's "National Infant Immunization Week," Suffolk County Legislator Lou D'Amaro (D-Huntington Station) would like to inform parents that it is vital to check that their children are up-to-date on all immunizations.

According to Dr. James Tomarken, Suffolk County Commissioner of Health Services, there are several reasons why immunizations need to be a top priority for parents:

Immunizations can save children from 14 vaccine preventable diseases: diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, measles, mumps, rubella, hepatitis A, hepatitis B, haemophilus influenza type B, varicella (chickenpox), pneumococcal disease, rotavirus and influenza.

Immunizations are safe and effective and given to children only after a long and careful review by scientists, doctors, and healthcare professionals.

Immunization protects others from getting preventable diseases. Babies who are too young to be fully immunized, immune-compromised individuals, pregnant women and older

(more)

adults are among those who are particularly vulnerable to disease. To help keep them safe, be sure that you and your children are fully immunized.

Immunization saves time and money. Vaccine-preventable diseases can result in prolonged disabilities and can take a financial toll because of lost time at work, medical bills or long-term disability care. In contrast, immunization is a good investment and usually covered by insurance.

Immunization protects future generations. Vaccines have reduced and, in some cases, eliminated many diseases that killed or severely disabled people just a few generations ago. If we continue vaccinating now, and vaccinating completely, parents in the future may be able to trust that it is possible some diseases of today will no longer be around to harm their children in the future.

Families are encouraged to check with their doctors to make sure every child's immunizations are up to date. Parents who have questions about immunization may call Suffolk County's Shots for Tots Hotline, (631) 854-0222, Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Additional information and vaccination schedules may be found on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's web site at www.cdc.gov/vaccines.

Note: The Suffolk County Department of Health Services (SCDHS) offers the MMR (measles/mumps/rubella) immunization to college students, as mandated by the NYS Department of Health. Call the SCDHS Office of Public Health, (631) 854-0333, Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. for dates, times and locations.

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Suffolk County Legislator Lou D'Amaro represents the 17th Legislative District, which includes parts of Huntington, Huntington Station, South Huntington, Melville, West Hills, Cold Spring Hills, Dix Hills, Deer Park, North Babylon and West Babylon. He is chairman of the Budget & Finance committee and a member of the Veterans committee of the Suffolk County Legislature.